

MINUTES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TENANT-LANDLORD COMMISSION

January 16, 2014

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Conference Room 9
Chair Gomez presiding

Attendees:

Commissioners Panettieri, Gomez,
Geier-Smith, Kocsis, Congleton

Absentees:

McRae, McEneamey

Staff Attending:

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Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
Vee Johnson, Staff Liaison
Consumer Affairs Branch
Margo Squires, Fair Housing Coordinator
Human Rights Commission

Guest:

The meeting was called to order at 7:39p.m. by Chair Gomez.

Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Geier-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Panettieri to approve the minutes from December 19, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- Chair Gomez introduced Margo Squires, Fair Housing Coordinator from the Human Rights Commission.

Director's Report

- Director Liberman deferred his report until the February meeting.

Committee Report

- Commissioner Geier-Smith did not have a report.

Staff Report

- Staff provided copies of the brochure, *Renting a Room in Fairfax County*, which was prepared in partnership with Coordinated Services Planning. This information is available on the Consumer Affairs Tenant-Landlord webpage. The brochure will be distributed to county as well as non-profit groups providing housing locator and information services to prospective tenants.

Commission Matters

- The calendar was reviewed. Commissioners meeting availability was updated.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Margo Squires, Fair Housing Coordinator with the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission and Equal Rights Commission explained the rights and protections provided for emotional support animals in "no pet" housing under Fair Housing laws and the Americans with Disabilities Act. There was discussion regarding reasonable accommodations and rental housing rules, policies, practices and services, what tenants need to provide to substantiate an exception to a landlord's no pet rule, and training and certification needed for a service animal or an emotional support animal. Resource information was provided along with a list of websites for more details and information about this topic.
- Discussion regarding the Channel 16 Committee was deferred until the February meeting.
- A copy of the new noise ordinance, which took effect on December 3, 2013, was distributed.
- Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the county lobbying policy for the 2014 General Assembly. There were no questions or comments
- Information regarding the 2014 Legislative Session was deferred until the February meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Congleton and seconded by Commissioner Geier-Smith to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.